Check List 8(6): 1308–1309, 2012
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ISSN 1809-127X (available at *www.checklist.org.br*)

Check List
Journal of species lists and distribution

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Typhlops tycherus Townsend, Wilson, Ketzler and Luque-Montes, 2008 (Squamata: Serpentes: Typhlopidae): Significant range extension for this Honduran endemic

James R. McCranie [1*] and Leonardo Valdés Orellana [2]

1 10770 SW 164th Street, Miami, Florida, USA.
2 Gerente General de "Hondufauna," Investigador Privado, Colonia América, Bloque 9, Casa 1806, Comayagüela, MDC, Honduras.
* Corresponding author: E-mail: *jmccrani@bellsouth.net*

ABSTRACT: We report the second known museum specimen of *Typhlops tycherus*, a blindsnake endemic to Honduras. This new specimen is from a locality about 240 km from the species' type locality, thus documenting that *T. tycherus* has a broader geographical distribution than previously thought.

Typhlops tycherus is a recently described blindsnake that until now was known only from the holotype (UF 151791), an adult found dead on a road (Townsend *et al.* 2008), and one other specimen from the species' type locality that remains unreported in the literature (Townsend pers. comun.), and apparently not deposited in a museum. The type locality on Cerro Santa Bárbara is in the western third of Honduras (Figure 1).

On the night of 25 March 2012, a third specimen of *Typhlops tycherus* (USNM 580444) was found on the floor of a house in La Florida (14°57' N, 85°53' W; 1400 m elevation), Olancho. The locality is located within the boundaries of Parque Nacional Sierra de Agalta in north-central Honduras some 240 km E of the species' type locality (Figure 1). The snake was killed with a machete by the owner of the house, who then contacted Victor Javier Rodriguez, also a resident of La Florida. Mr. Rodriguez, who had collected amphibians and reptiles with us previously, recognized the distinctness of the snake and preserved it in alcohol and brought it to us in Tegucigalpa, DC, the following day. The La Florida locality lies in a valley carved from broadleaf forest (Premontane Wet Forest formation of Holdridge 1967). Collecting (DVS-ICF–016–2009) and export (Constancia 006–2012–DVS-ICF) permits for this specimen are on file at the USNM in Washington, DC, USA.

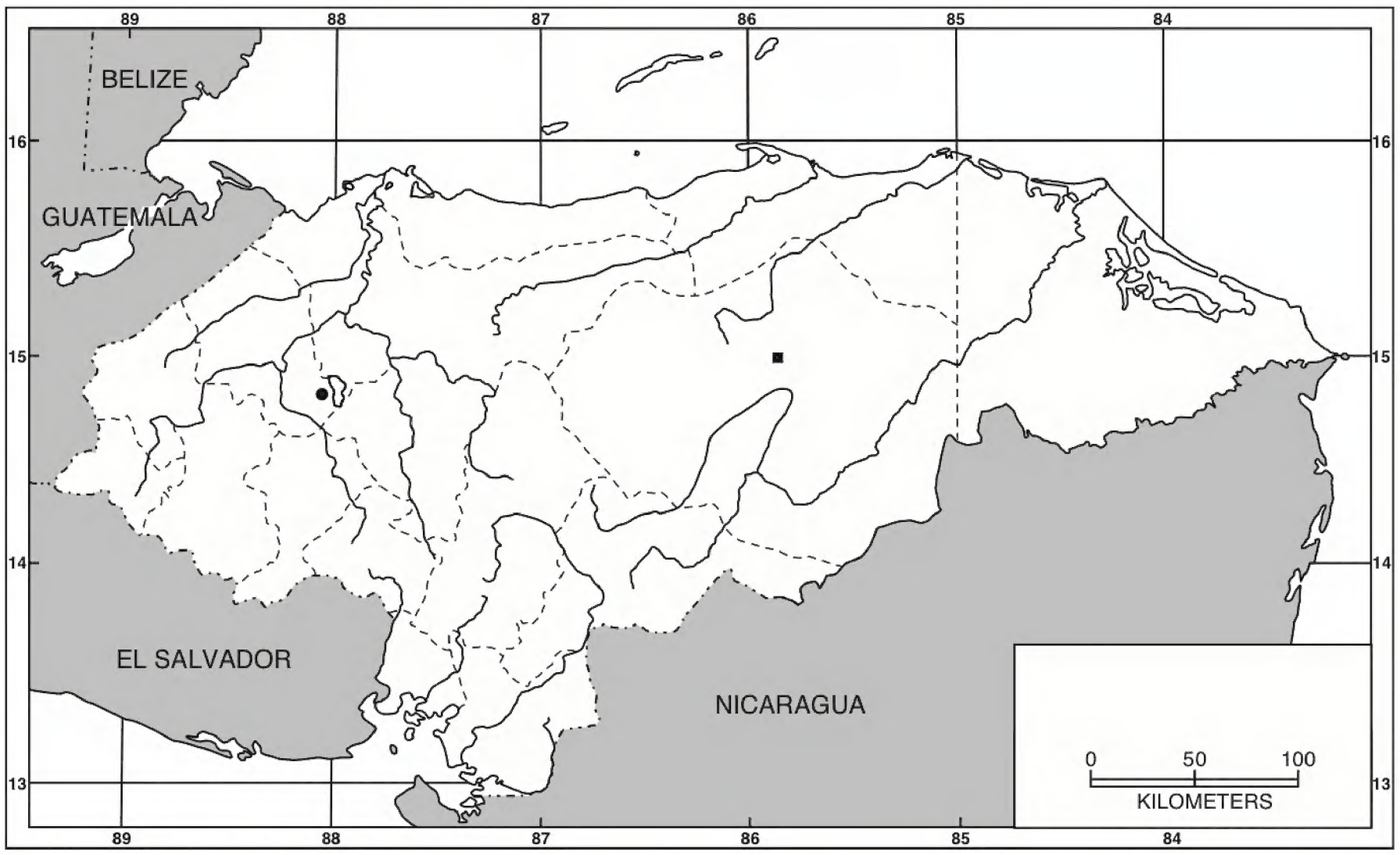

FIGURE 1. Map of Honduras showing the type locality (circle; between San José de Los Andes and El Cedral, Cerro Santa Bárbara, Santa Bárbara) and the new locality (square) of *Typhlops tycherus*.

Figure 2. New specimen of *Typhlops tycherus* (USNM 580444), Total length ca. 386 mm. Scale bar = 25 mm.

The new specimen (USNM 580444) is an adult (Figure 2) that is slightly larger than and agrees well with the holotype of *Typhlops tycherus* in morphology and color pattern. Its morphology is described following the format used by McCranie (2011), who examined the holotype: body subcylindrical, head same width as neck; snout rounded in lateral profile, broadly rounded in dorsal aspect; rostral long, reaching nearly to level of eye; rostral width about 51 percent of head width (33% in holotype); supranasals and prefrontals fused, fused scale reaching to level slightly posterior to rostral and level of anterior portion of eye; nostrils not visible from above; nasals completely divided; nasals-prefrontals separated medially by rostral; supraocular single, about same size as frontal; loreal absent; preocular single, slightly larger than ocular, preocular and ocular wider than high; preocular contacting supralabials 1–2 (2–3 in holotype); eye visible beneath scale, located anterior to and above center of ocular, near edge of preocular; suboculars absent; median and posterior head series of scales (supraoculars, frontal, interparietals, and parietals) each larger than body scales; supralabials 3 (4 in holotype); infralabials 4; small mental present; scales around body 22–22–22, all rows of equal size; median dorsal scales from frontal to tail spine 404 (395 in holotype); median subcaudal series 6 [11 in holotype according to McCranie (2011), 8 according to Townsend et al. (2008)]; precloacal scales slightly enlarged; TOL ca. 386 mm (371 in holotype); SVL ca. 381 (365 mm in holotype); TAL/TOL 0.012 (0.015 in holotype); diameter of midbody ca. 55 times into TOL (46 in holotype).

The discovery of the new specimen of *Typhlops tycherus* is important in that it demonstrates that the species is more widely distributed geographically than previously thought. In addition to its confirmed presence in Parque Nacional Sierra de Agalta, it also offers hope that the species occurs in other populations between the two confirmed localities.

Acknowledgments: We thank Victor Javier Rodriguez for preserving and bringing to us the new specimen of *Typhlops tycherus*. Iris Acosta and Said Laínez issued the collecting and export permits. We also thank Steve W. Gotte who made helpful comments to improve the manuscript in his role as a referee.

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Received: August 2012
Accepted: October 2012
Published online: December 2012
Editorial responsibility: Pedro M. Sales Nunes